

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. Communication apparatus comprising:
a memory for storing one or more representation of a communicator located in an
alert region; and
a controller for causing an alert message to be sent to at least one communicator
in the alert region.

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2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:
the controller causes the alert message to be sent in response to an alert request
received by the controller from a requesting communicator located in the alert region.

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3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:
at least one communicator located in the alert region comprises a locator for
determining its location.

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4. The apparatus of Claim 1:
at least one communicator located in the alert region comprises a sensor for
determining an alert condition.

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5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:
the alert message comprises a location of a requesting communicator located in
the alert region.

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6. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:
at least one representation stored in the memory indicates an availability or a
qualification of a user associated with a corresponding communicator located in the alert
region.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

the controller causes the alert message to be sent to a first communicator using a first communication protocol, and a second communicator using a second communication protocol.

5 8. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

the controller causes the alert message to be sent using a first communication protocol in response to an alert request received by the controller from a requesting communicator located in the alert region using a second communication protocol.

10 9. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein:

the controller causes an other message to be sent subsequently to the alert message to at least one communicator in a neighboring region.

15 10. In a communication network comprising a base station and one or more devices for communicating therewith, a device comprising:

a memory for storing an identifier of a user of the device, the user being pre-registered to send or receive an alert message to or from another device, when both such devices are located in an alert region; and

means for determining a location of the device.

20 11. The device of Claim 10 further comprising:
a sensor for determining an alert condition to send the alert message.

25 12. The device of Claim 10 wherein:
the alert message comprises the device location.

30 13. The device of Claim 10 wherein:
the device identifier indicates an availability or a qualification of the user associated.

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14. The device of Claim 10 wherein:
the device and the another device send or receive messages using different
communications protocol.

5 15. In a wireless network for signaling between a plurality of nodes, a
communication method comprising the steps of:
receiving from a first node a first alert message comprising a location of the first
node; and
sending to a second node located in a region comprising the location a second
10 alert message.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein:
the first alert message comprises an identifier of a user associated with the first
node, the user being pre-registered to send or receive one or more alert message to or
15 from the second node, when both nodes are located in an alert region.

17. The method of Claim 15 wherein:
the first and second alert messages the device are communicated using different
protocol.

20 18. The method of Claim 15 wherein:
the first alert message further comprises a time stamp.

25 19. The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:
sending to a third node located in a neighboring region not comprising the
location a third alert message.